CONFIDENTIAL.

BELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

Received up to 18th January, 1879.

POLITICAL.

THE Akhbar-i-Am, Lahore, of the 15th January says that it appears from a recent telegra-The cost of the war. phic news received from London that the natives of India resident in England will petition Parliament protesting against India being saddled with the entire cost of the war. They are natives by birth, and well educated like Englishmen. Their opinion is therefore entitled to greater weight than that of Englishmen who are foreigners and totally unacquainted with the customs and manners of India. Englishmen cannot be expected to sympathise with the distress and miseries of the natives. They are brought up in plenty and luxury at home, and are highly paid in India. Even if they were poor at home, they get such large salaries in India as their fathers could not have dreamt of. In these circumstances it is not at all surprising that they should consider India to be a very rich country. It is this belief which

Circulation, 1,050 copies. has induced them to declare that India should pay the entire cost of the war. The English journalists also share this false belief, which underlies and vitiates all their opinions and arguments about Indian questions. The Government habitually acts upon their advice, and the result is that it is deprecated and abused by the people for their mistakes and follies. No English journalist can give such sound advice to the Government as a native on an Indian question. It is this point which it is our object to impress well upon the mind of the Government.

Circulation, 44 copies. The Amir Sher Ali evil destiny of the Amir Sher Ali Khan Khan of Kabul. which induced him to pick a quarrel with the Government of India. He should have remembered that the Government has reduced the most powerful States in India to subjection, and that therefore he was no match for it. He was foolish enough to mistake its forbearance for weakness. He forgot all the favors that the Government had bestowed upon him, and proved as ungrateful as a serpent which bites the very man who feeds it. It is rumoured that the Amir has fled towards Yarkand to seek an asylum with the Russians; but he will not be safe even under Russian protection, because misfortunes befal a man, destined to ruin, wherever he goes.

Circulation, 820 copies. The Oudh Akhbár of the 16th January, after adverting

The collection of subscriptions for the relief of the wounded in the Kabul war. to the committee which has been established at Lucknew through the auspices of the Jalsa-i-Tahzib, Lucknew, for the purpose of collecting

subscriptions for the relief of the wounded soldiers and the widows and orphans of those killed in the war (vide the Selections for the week ending the 4th January, 1879, page 2), appeals to the charity and patriotism of the whole native population to contribute liberally towards the relief fund in question.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 17th January says: Now that

Circulation, 820 copies.

The administration of that part of the Amir's territories which has been already occupied by British troops. the object which the present campaign had in view, viz., the occupation of Kandahar, has been attained, immediate measures should be adopted to

maintain peace and order in that part of Afghanistan which has been occupied by our troops. The anxiety and apprehension which a change of rule necessarily excites in the minds of a barbarous people should be removed by friendly assurances. Judicial courts should be established and justice administered in accordance with laws based on local customs and manners. A road should be constructed from Jalalabad to Kandahar via Kurram, and guarded by military police, to secure safe passage of commissariat supplies and private trade. Telegraphic wire need not be laid across the country till the inhabitants are accustomed to our rule, because at present they look upon this means of communication with suspicion. Above all, the British officers should endeavour to win the good will of the Afghans by treating them in a conciliatory and friendly way.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 18th January says that it apThe attitude of Yakub
Khan towards the Government of India.

The attitude of Yakub
the seat of war that Major Cavagnari
has sent a message to Yakub Khan,

820 copies.

Circulation.

stating the conditions on which the Government would recognise him as the ruler of Afghanistan. In regard to the proposed conditions, the *Times* remarks that he will probably accept them. But it is to be regretted that he has not yet replied to Major Cavagnari's message. True, he has not adopted any measure of open hostility towards the Government, but his attitude is far from satisfactory. He should have acknowledged his allegiance to the Government of India long ago. If he foolishly does not sue for peace, he will share the fate of his father, and Afghanistan will be annexed.

Circulation, 254 copies. The Aligarh Institute Gazette of the 14th January publishes a notice, issued by Maulvi The inhabitants of Aligarh and Bulandshahr and Sayyid Farid-ud-din Ahmad, Suborthe Kabul war. Sayyid Farid-ud-din Ahmad, Suborthe Fabruary in order to decide that, as the nobility and gentry of Aligarh and Bulandshahr are anxious to give a practical proof of their loyalty to the Government in the present crisis, a general meeting will be held at Aligarh on the 19th January in order to decide what measures should be adopted for the purpose.

NATIVE STATES.

Circulation, 300 copies.

The Panjabi Akhbár of the 11th January says: The Pioneer states that, in his last annual The famine administration in Kashmir. administration report, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjab has estimated the mortality in Kashmir from the effects of famine at 150,000 As the population of Kashmir is only 500,000 men, the estimated mortality appears to be terrible. But no sensible man can accept this estimate as correct. It is based on mere conjecture. No census has been taken since the out-The State officiais did their best to neutrabreak of famine. lise the effects of famine. The Government officers who were visitors at Kashmir, as well as those who had been sent by Government to assist the State officials in managing the famine, presented an address to Diwan Anant Ram, in which he was highly praised for his excellent famine administration. If the mortality had been so heavy as estimated by the Panjab Government, they would have never bestowed such high encomiums upon him. The Maharaja sanctioned a grant of several lakhs of rupees from the State treasury for the relief of famine, and all the high officers of the State contributed subscriptions for the same purpose. Moreover, each of them also daily fed a number of sufferers at his own house. All these considerations do not warrant the assumption that 150,000 men perished from starvation in Kashmir. There is



no doubt that, before the attention of the State was directed to the visitation, a large number of the famine-stricken people emigrated from Kashmir, but the efforts of the State were afterwards successful in grappling with the famine.

A correspondent of the Panjabi Akhbar of the 11th January,

The policyof employing low-salaried officers on responsible duties.

deprecates the policy of employing low-paid officers on duties of trust and responsibility, which is in vogue in

Native States. For instance, a tahsildar on Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a month is put in charge of a large pargana, and is entrusted with full magisterial powers. He extorts bribes from the people and appropriates public money, as might be anticipated. If he is at any time charged with breach of trust, and imprisoned, he purchases his release by paying a portion of his ill-gotten riches to the higher authorities. If he is dismissed, he does not care for the loss of his appointment, because he has already earned a large sum of money which will suffice for his support for the rest of his life. The native chiefs should abandon this penny-wise-and-pound-foolish policy, and follow the example of Government of India which never appoints any man to an office of trust and responsibility on a low salary.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Núrul Absar of the 15th January, in regard to the controversy that has been going on between the Aligarh Institute Gazette and the Anjumani Panjab regarding the question of establishing village panchaits (vide the Selections for the weeks ending the 12th September and the 5th October, 1878, pages 798 and 860, respectively), concurs with the Anjumani Panjab in thinking that great good will accrue from the establishment of panchaits. The panchaits would relieve the ordinary courts of justice of a large amount of petty litigation, and place cheap and prompt justice within the reach of the people. The panchaits should consist of respectable gentlemen, and the right of

Circulation, 300 copies.

Circulation, 84 copies.

electing members should rest with the people. It is foolish to think that a panchait consisting of a number of respectable men will not be able to impartially decide petty suits of Rs. 4 or 5 in value. A small fee of annas 2 or 3 may be also exacted from the litigants in each case, if the Government pleases to do so. The establishment of panchaits also commends itself on political grounds. The admission of a large and influential class of persons to a share in the administration can not fail to increase the popularity of British rule. The Government would be also relieved of a great deal of popular odium. the litigant who loses his case complains that justice has not been done him, and the winner complains of the great expense and trouble to which he has been subjected. But when a suitor will not be satisfied with the decision of a panchait in any case, his complaints will be directed against the panchait itself and not the Government.

Circulation, 215 copies. The Mashiri Qaisar, Lucknow, of the 12th January, says that the people are even now severely suffering from high prices. However, as the Government is in want of money, it can not help levying the license-tax. The people bitterly complained of heavy assessments last year. The district officers should, therefore, carefully check and revise the assessments made by the tahsildars. The best thing would be, if the Government levied the license tax upon Government servants, whose pay is above Rs. 500, instead of levying it upon traders and shop-keepers. At all events the printing presses should be exempted from the payment of the tax.

Circulation, 155 copies. Rules for the admission of university men into the revenue branch of the public service in the Bombay Presidency.

The Pramod Sindhu of the 13th January says that the question of providing employment for the university men has long been under the consideration of Indian administrators, but that the honor of

taking practical steps in this direction was reserved for Sir Richard Temple, the Governor of Bombay. His Excellency has

prescribed rules for the admission of university men into the revenue branch of the public service, and reserved the appointments of 2nd karkun, head karkun, mamlatdar and deputy collector for them. True, the pay fixed for a graduate of the university, according to these rules, at the time of entering the service, is too small compared with the labor and expense to which he has been subjected in obtaining education, but it should be remembered that no other Governor would have had the courage to do even what Sir Richard Temple has done. It is matter of great satisfaction that Sir Richard Temple takes a deep interest in the welfare of the educated natives.

The Shola' Tur of the 14th January says that it is the bounden duty of a king to protect the The poverty of India. lives and property of his subjects, to adopt measures for increasing their comfort, and to encourage trade and commerce in the country. The satisfactory performance of this duty on the part of a king tends to strengthen his own rule and to promote the welfare of the people. For the due performance of this duty, sincerity or honesty on both sides is essential. Our countrymen are fully convinced of the effect which the honesty or dishonesty of a king has on the prosperity of the country, as will be obvious from the following traditional story which is repeated on every occasion whenever the question of the material condition of the country is discussed. The story is as follows: -Once upon a time the emperor Akbar went out a-hunting. When he was fatigued, he sat down under a tree and asked for water. The villagers cut a sugarcane from the neighbouring fields, squeezed it, filled the juice into a cup, and offered it to him. He was highly pleased with the juice, and asked them what tax they paid to the emperor on the sugarcane crop. They told him what tax they paid. He thought the tax too small, and in-

tended to increase it. He again called for a cup of sugar-

cane juice. The villagers again cut and squeezed a sugar-

cane, but found that it did not yield as much juice as the one

Circulation, 275 copies. they squeezed before. When they again offered the cup of juice to the emperor, they told him that the mind of their king was probably changed, because the juice in their sugarcanes decreased.

We are thankful to God for sending the British to rule over us, under whom we enjoy perfect peace and tranquillity. Although the increased facilities of communication under the present régime have tended to encourage trade and commerce and to develope the resources of the country, the people do not appear to be as happy as they were formerly. Formerly rains were plentiful and timely. Prices were very low. Food-grains sold at $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 maunds per rupee, oil (ghi) at 3 or 4 seers a rupee, and so forth. There was plenty of fodder for cattle. Epidemic diseases were scarce. There was plenty of employment for every class of the community. But now the rains are insufficient and untimely. Famines have become so frequent that the Government has felt obliged to create a special famine insurance fund. High prices always prevail in the country. The condition of the higher classes is not much better than that of the lower classes. Both the landholders and cultivators are hopelessly involved in debt, and land is gradually passing out of their hands. Fatal diseases ravage the country throughout the year. Only cloth is cheaper now than formerly. The Government has constructed rail roads to facilitate commerce. It has constructed canals for irrigation purposes, so that an insufficient fall of rain at any time may not cause an entire failure of crops. To neutralise the effects of epidemic diseases hospitals and dispensaries have been established throughout the country, and municipal committees have been entrusted with the duty of looking after the sanitary arrangements of cities and towns. But, in spite of all these efforts of the Government, high prices always rule the market, much sickness is prevalent, and the people are in distress. We are really unable to account for this anomaly. We hope that our contemporaries will also direct their attention

to this important subject. Some men say that this lamentable state of things is attributable to the dishonesty and folly of our own countrymen. They are dishonest because Englishmen do not trust them, and consider them to be liars and a deceitful people. They are foolish because they do not truthfully lay their grievances before the Government so that they might be remedied. When the people are in so great distress, and the Government is heartily disposed to ameliorate their condition, why does not heaven induce the former to tell the latter what their grievances are, and guide the latter to the right remedy!

The Oudh Akhbar of the 14th January says that it is an admitted fact that the Indian peasant is not well acquainted with the principles of agriculture. The result of

his ignorance, as one might naturally anticipate, is that the outturn of produce is considerably less than what it otherwise would be. An agricultural college has long been in existence in Madras, and is thriving well under the fostering care of the Government officials. Sir Richard Temple has also been pleased to establish an agricultural class at the Poona Engineering College, and one at each of the six high schools in the Bombay Presidency, for which the inhabitants of that Presidency ought to be very thankful to him. If they cordially co-operate with the Government in the matter of encouraging the agricultural education, the fertility of the soil will be highly enhanced. Sir Richard Temple has served in several provinces in India, and has always taken a deep interest in the encouragement and improvement of the Iudian arts. We hope that the agricultural institution which he has now established will prove a lasting monument to his memory in the Bombay Presidency. An institution of this kind should be established in every province in India. If the Government is unwilling to bear the whole expense necessary for its support, the well-to-do classes should contribute a share.

Circulation, 820 copies.

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Circulation, 84 copies. The Ner-ul-Absar of the 15th January briefly notices the resolution, recorded by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay on the 29th October last, regarding the encouragement of the education of agriculture in that Presidency, and remarks: It is beyond our comprehension why a similar scheme for the encouragement of agricultural education should not also be introduced in the North-Western Provinces. All the necessary apparatus which exist at Poona are also at hand in these provinces. There is a central college with a strong professorial staff. There is also a separate agricultural department which has yet had little or no effect upon the people.

POST OFFICE.

Circulation,

The Arya Mitra, Benares, of the 10th January, in its local news column, says: A new branch Post-of a branch Post-office office has been established near Rebritalab and Bhelupur in Benares. To our thinking it would prove much more useful if it were established near the Bengali-tola, preparatory school on the new road.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The Berar Mitr, Ellichpur, of the 14th January, in its local news column, says that the The unjust impounding of a large number of cattle Patels of villages sometimes causeless-by a Patel of mauza Kandli y impound cattle which is a source of great inconvenience to the poor owners of cattle. The day before yesterday, says the Mitra, the patel of mauza Kandli seized 200 cattle on the ground that they damaged his crops, released some of them on extorting a small sum of money from the owners, and confined the others into the cattle pound. To our knowledge he has no fields, and has seized the cattle only in order to illegally

extort money from the owners. If the above complaint is true, we hope that the deputy commissioner will take the case into his favourable consideration.

The Pramad Sindhu, Amraoti, of the 13th January, publishes an account of the darbar held

The darbar held by the Commissioner of the HyderSt Amraoti on the 1.th abad Assigned Districts, at Amraoti, on the 11th idem, to distribute prizes to the students of the Amraoti High School, and to bestow rewards and certificates upon patels, patwaris, and the subordinate police officers who rendered important public services

during the last year.

Circulation, 155 copies.

80 TO RE

The Oudh Akhbár of the 15th January says that the preThe death of Gore Ouseley, Esq. C. S., Financial Commissioner of the Commissioner, Panjab.

Commissioner, Panjab.

Panjab, is a source of grief both to the inhabitants of the Panjab and Oudh. He was formerly a Commissioner in Oudh. He was just and kind to the people, and his conduct towards the natives was marked with courtesy and politeness.

Circulation, 820 copies.

The Patiala Akhbar of the 13th January also notices with regret the death of Mr. Gore Ouseley, and praises him for his excellent administration of justice, politeness and generosity.

Circulation, 240 copies.

A local correspondent of the Arya Mitra of the 17th Coal complaints, Bena- January complains of the oppression practised by police constables in Benares over the petty shop-keepers. A few days ago the writer personally saw two constables extorting guavas from a poor woman who sold guavas near the police station on the new road. The contractors of the vegetable-market, which is situated near Dasháshwamedh, also oppress the vegetable-sellers.

Circulation,

Cinculation, 126 copies.

The Nusrat-ul Akhbar, Delhi, of the 11th January, pub-

letter of thanks addressed by the Turkish Government to the proul-Akhbar, Delhi.

The second of the second secon

lishes the letter which the proprietor has received from the Turkish Governprietor of the Nurrat- ment through the Turkish Consul General at Bombay, and in which the Grand

Vizier tenders thanks to the proprietor for his collecting subscriptions for the relief of the Turkish soldiers during the late Russo-Turkish war, and advises despatch of a number of religious books as a gift from the Sultan.

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MAKB.	LOGALITI.	LANGDAGE	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISH-	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RE-	CERODEATION.
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Afteb-i-Panidb	Lahore	Urdu	Bi-weekly Fagir M	ubammad,	Jany. 10th & 13th	Jany. 10th & 13th Jan. 12th & 16th.	575 copies.
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LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

List of papers examined—(continued).

No.	LOGALITY.	LANGUAGE.	WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISH- ER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
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14 Bharat Bandhe	Aligarh	Hindi. Eng.	Ditto	Tota Kam	" 17th	" 18th "	160
18 Dab labah Quieri	Bareilly	Urdu	•	Raj Bahadur	, 11th	" 14th	136
14 Dabdabuh Sikundri,	Kampur	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Husain	Ista	1560	430
O Gwalior Gazette	Gwalior	Hindi-Urdu,	Ditto		" 5th & 12th	" 12th & 18th,	
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James Akhode		Urdu	:	Najaf Khan	, 10th	" 13th	125
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39 Najm-ul-Akhbar	Meerut	Ditto	Daily	Wuhammad Hayat,		Ith to	16th		13th to 18th,		350	1.7
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List of papers examined-(concluded).

NAME.	LOGALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WERKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISH-	DATE OF	LE OF PAPER.	DATE	DATE OF RECEIPT.	0	PREDICATION.
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Rafah.i. Am	Sialkot	Urdu	Bi-monthly.	•	Jany. 18th.	. :	Jany.	19th	0u9	:
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Sohail Hind	Meerut	Ditto	:	Kamta Prasad		:	:	17th	. 146	3
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Vakil-i-Hinduston	Amritsar,	Urdu	Ditto	Babu Ishan Chau-		:		•	. 260	*
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The 23rd January, 1879.

Gout. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

PRINTED AT THE N.-W. P. AND OUDH GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALLAHABAD.